

Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8721

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EAID, AS, PP, FJ
SUBJ: REPORTS OF PROPOSED US ECONOMIC INITIATIVES IN
SOUTH PACIFIC

REF: A. STATE 196565, B. CANBERRA 5700, C. CANBERRA 5656

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE FROM CANBERRA 5656, ANZUS COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE REFERENCE TO SOUTH PACIFIC REFERRED ONLY TO AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND INTENTION TO GIVE GREATER PRIORITY TO SOUTH PACIFIC IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND MADE NO REFERENCE TO UNITED STATES.

2. IN DFA PRESS BRIEFING RESPECTING OUTCOME OF COUNCIL MEETING, DFA SPOKESMAN INDICATED SOUTH PACIFIC WOULD RECEIVE INCREASED EMPHASIS, NOT AS ANZUS PROJECT, BUT IN LARGE PART THROUGH INDIVIDUAL BILATERAL EMPHASIS. DFA SPECIFIED THAT INCREASED EMPHASIS WOULD BE BY AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. SPOKESMAN ALLUDED IN PASSING TO GROWING U.S. ATTENTION TO MICRONESIA.

3. TEXT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY'S SPEECH AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB DID NOT TOUCH ON PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE FROM CANBERRA 5700, PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS WERE MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH TWO DIFFERENT QUESTIONS ADKED
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DURING QUESTION AND ANSWERE SESSION WHICH FOLLOWED SPEECH.

FIRST REFERENCE WAS IN REPLY TO INITIAL QUESTION BY
JENSEN, WHILE SECOND REFERENCE WAS IN REPLY TO FINAL QUES-
TION SPECIFICALLY ON TOPIC OF AID TO SOUTH PACIFIC.

4. AT ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT BY
THREE COUNTRIES THAT MODEST AID PROGRAM FOR SOUTH PACIFIC
ISLAND WOULD BE CHEAP INSURANCE AGAINST SOVIET INTRUSIONS.
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE POINTED OUT WE COULD NOT MAKE
ANY COMMITMENT FOR AID SINCE IT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CLEARANCE
FROM WASHINGTON BOTH AT EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE LEVELS.
THIS IS REASON COMMUNIQUE REFERRED ONLY TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW
ZEALAND INTENTIONS. HOWEVER, THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN-
DICATED A DESIRE TO WORK WITH THE OTHER TWO COUNTRIES TO
PARTICIPATE ULTIMATELY IN SUCH A PROGRAM. THE AUSTRALIAN REP-
RESENTATIVE SUGGESTED A MEETING IN WASHINGTON ABOUT ONE MONTH
HENCE AMONG THE NEW LEALAND AN AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADORS TO
UNITED STATES AND AN UMPROPRIATE PERSON IN DEPARTMENT. TOM
MAJDA, EA/ANP DESK OFFICER, WAS NOT TAKER AT ANYLS MEETINGS
AND WILL HAVE DETAILED INFORMATION IF HE HAS RETURNED TO
WASHINGTON.
HARGROVE

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